

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 257

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lessie Virginia Jackson on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Lessie Virginia Jackson celebrated her 100th birthday on March 15, 2017, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in Abbeville, Mississippi, on March 15, 1917, to Richard and Hattie Jenkins, Lessie Jenkins married William Earl Henry at the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, the couple moved to Memphis in 1948, transitioning from farm to factory work. Earl Henry served as an employee with Continental Can Company until his retirement, and Lessie Henry worked for Dean Lilly Company and MidWest Ice Cream Company; and

WHEREAS, later, she pursued a career in nursing and served with great skill and capability as a nurse with Baptist Hospital of Memphis and as Director of Training for Home Health Aides, from which position she retired at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, Lessie and Earl Henry enjoyed a lengthy marriage, which produced four children: James Henry (deceased), Tom Henry, Harold Henry (deceased), and Dr. Patsy Highland; and

WHEREAS, after the death of Mr. Henry at the age of eighty, she remarried twice more, first to Doyle Blankenship, a river boat captain, and then to Clarence Jackson, a postmaster, both of whom she outlived; and

WHEREAS, today, Mrs. Jackson lives in Murfreesboro, surrounded by her loving extended family, which includes her surviving children, thirteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and thirty-two great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jackson has been a faithful member of Southern Baptist churches throughout her lifetime and has served in numerous leadership roles, including as Adult Bible teacher and Pastor Search leader; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jackson enjoys taking care of her home and watching her favorite baseball team, the Atlanta Braves, play; and

WHEREAS, she fondly remembers sharing her homemade fried chicken, black-eyed peas, cornbread, and blackberry cobbler with Elvis Presley, who was a classmate of her sons and of whom she requested he sing for his supper; and

WHEREAS, as Lessie Jackson enters her eleventh decade, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Lessie Virginia Jackson on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.